

# VIRGINIA'S RIVER ATLASES



## HISTORIC WATERWAYS OF OLD VIRGINIA

Ever since our earliest beginnings, the inland waterways of Virginia have played a powerful role in the history of the commonwealth and the nation. For a considerable period, our rivers and canals were the dominant means of our transport, and canals were the key to the westward march of settlement while serving as an essential link with the coastal region, preserving national unity during the critical period of our country's growth. Now largely supplanted by the roads and railroads we use today, our waterways still figure prominently in the state's resources, and their value for recreation and park development grows yearly.

The realization of Virginia's extensive canal and navigation system was brought about through the vision, genius and faith of some of the most remarkable men of the age, including, not surprisingly, George Washington, who was president of both the Potomac and James River navigation companies. Unfortunately their creations have largely become the victims of neglect and public apathy, although here and there a canal park, trial, or scenic river has demonstrated the value of the old works as unique eye-pleasing amenities and genuine historical memorials to our ancestors' ingenuity and industry.

Members of the Society receive the illustrated quarterly *The Tiller* and other items of special interest: the opportunity to enjoy the company of others

VIRGINIA'S MOST DETAILED ANNOTATED  
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A VOLUNTEER PROJECT OF VIRGINIA'S  
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The Virginia Canals and Navigations Society was formed in 1977 to preserve and enhance Virginia's rich inland waterways heritage in all its fascinating aspects. History, exploration, archaeology, modeling, local lore and legend, restoration, preservation, park and trail development—these are some of the many areas of interest our members pursue, to their own great satisfaction and frequently to the lasting benefit of their communities and state. The society is increasingly active as a focus for waterways interest, and a collective voice of all those who are concerned about the future of this priceless part of our past.

The Society became organized in 1980 with a constitution, by-laws, elected trustees and officials. In 1982 it was chartered by the State as a non-stock corporation and approved by the federal Government as a non-profit organization eligible to receive tax-deductible grants, gifts, land rights and dues, and to utilize preferential postal rates. The Board of Trustees has fiduciary responsibilities for accessions other than dues. The staff of officials conducts operational affairs and produces *The Tiller*. Local chapters monitor canal and river navigation sites and cooperate locally to accomplish the society's objectives.

Members of the Society receive the illustrated quarterly *The Tiller* and other items of special interest: the opportunity to enjoy the company of others



at society and local chapter meetings and field trips; and the chance to work together to make our world a better place in which to live

Dues apply to the calendar year and entitle members to all issues of "The Tiller" for that year. Please make checks payable to "Virginia Canals & Navigations Society" or V.C. & N.S. All dues and donations are tax deductible.

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